

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A cable modem system for transferring data from a user device to a network, comprising:

a cable modem;

a DOCSIS-compliant cable modem termination system coupled to said cable modem via a cable network; and

a headend server coupled to said cable modem termination system and to the network;

wherein said cable modem ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to receive data packets from the user device, to modify the contents of said data packets, said modification comprising suppression of an RTP header, in accordance with a non-DOCSIS-compliant data transfer protocol, to append a unique hardware address of said headend server to said modified data packets, and to transfer said modified data packets to said cable modem termination system;

wherein said cable modem termination system ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to receive said modified data packets and to transfer said modified data packets to said headend server in accordance with said unique hardware address; and

wherein said headend server ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to restore the contents of said modified data packets to an unmodified state and to transfer said restored data packets to the network.

2. *(Canceled)*

3. *(Previously Presented)* The cable modem system of claim 1, wherein said unique hardware address comprises an Ethernet address.

4. *(Original)* The cable modem system of claim 1, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

5. *(Currently amended)* The cable modem system of claim 1, wherein said cable modem ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to modify the contents of said data packets by suppressing header information in said data packets, and said headend server is ~~adapted~~ comprises logic to restore the contents of said modified data packets to an unmodified state by restoring said suppressed header information.

6. *(Currently amended)* A cable modem system for transferring data packets from a cable modem to a network, wherein the data packets are formatted in accordance with a non-DOCSIS-compliant data transfer protocol, comprising:

a DOCSIS-compliant cable modem termination system coupled to said cable modem via a cable network; and

a headend server coupled to said cable modem termination system and to the network;

wherein said cable modem termination system ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to receive the data packets and to transfer the data packets to said headend server in accordance with a unique hardware address of said headend server that is appended by the cable modem to the data packets; and

wherein said headend server ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic ~~to modify the format to restore a previously suppressed RTP header~~ of the data packets in accordance with the non-DOCSIS-compliant data transfer protocol and to transfer said modified data packets to the network.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The cable modem system of claim 6, wherein said unique hardware address comprises an Ethernet address.

9. (Original) The cable modem system of claim 6, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

10. (Currently amended) The cable modem system of claim 6, wherein the data packets received by said cable modem termination system have been formatted in accordance with a header suppression scheme, and wherein said headend server is ~~adapted~~ comprises logic to restore suppressed header information to the data packets.

11. (*Currently amended*) A cable modem system for transferring data from a user device to a network, comprising:

a cable modem;

a DOCSIS-compliant cable modem termination system coupled to said cable modem via a cable network and coupled to the network; and

a headend server coupled to said cable modem termination system;

wherein said cable modem ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to receive data packets from the user device, to modify the contents of said data packets, said modification comprising suppression of an RTP header, in accordance with a non-DOCSIS-compliant data transfer protocol, to append a unique hardware address of said headend server to said modified data packets, and to transfer said modified data packets to said cable modem termination system;

wherein said cable modem termination system ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to receive said modified data packets and to transfer said modified data packets to said headend server in accordance with said unique hardware address;

wherein said headend server ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to restore the contents of said modified data packets to an unmodified state and to transfer said restored data packets to said cable modem termination system;

and wherein said cable modem termination system ~~is further adapted~~ comprises logic to receive said restored data packets and to transfer said restored data packets to the network.

12. (*Currently amended*) A method for transferring data in a cable modem system, comprising:

receiving data packets from a user device;

modifying the contents of said data packets, said modification comprising suppression of an RTP header, in accordance with a non-DOCSIS-compliant data transfer protocol;

appending a unique hardware address of a headend server to the modified data packets;

transferring the modified data packets over a cable network to a DOCSIS-compliant cable modem termination system;

wherein the cable modem termination system ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to transfer the modified data packets to the headend server in accordance with the unique hardware address; and

wherein the headend server ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to restore the contents of said modified data packets to an unmodified state and transfer said restored data packets to a network.

13-14. (*Canceled*)

15. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 12, wherein said modifying step comprises suppressing header information of said data packets, and wherein the headend server ~~is adapted~~ comprises logic to restore the suppressed header information.

16.     *(Previously Presented)* The method of claim 12, wherein said appending step comprises appending an Ethernet address that directs the modified data packets to the headend server.